

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor, comprising:

a substrate;

a photosensitive layer comprising an IR absorber, a polymerization initiator, a polymerizable compound and a binder polymer; and

a protective layer containing a UV absorber,

disposed in this order,

wherein the photosensitive layer exhibits reduction in solubility in an alkaline developing solution upon being exposed to light having a wavelength of 750 nm to 1400 nm;

the photosensitive layer further comprises a compound containing at least one carboxylic group and having a weight-average molecular weight of 3000 or less; and

the compound containing at least one carboxylic group is one selected from the group consisting of a phthalic acid derivative, a trimellitic acid derivative, a pyromellitic acid derivative, a succinic acid derivative, a benzoic acid derivative and a glycine derivative.
2. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the UV absorber has a maximum absorption at a wavelength in a range of 300 to 420 nm.
3. (canceled).
4. (canceled).

5. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein a developing rate of an unexposed portion of the photosensitive layer by an alkaline developing solution having a pH of 10 to 13.5 is 80 nm/sec or more, and a permeation rate of the alkaline developing solution to an exposed portion of the photosensitive layer is 100 nF/sec or less.

6. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the IR absorber is one selected from the group consisting of a cyanine dye, a squarylium dye, a pyrylium salt, a nickel/thiolate complex and an indolenine cyanine dye.

7. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the IR absorber is a pigment having a particle diameter of 0.01 to 10 μm .

8. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein an absorbance of the photosensitive layer at a maximum absorption wavelength in a range of 760 to 1200 nm is 0.5 to 1.2 measured by a reflection measurement method.

9. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the polymerization initiator is a radical-generating agent which is decomposed by heat to generate radicals.

10. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 9, wherein the radical-generating agent is an onium salt.

11. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the polymerization initiator is contained in the photosensitive layer in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by mass based on a total solid content of the photosensitive layer.

12. (currently amended): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein an acid value ~~(mg/g)~~ (meq/g) of the binder polymer is in a range of 2.00 to 3.60.

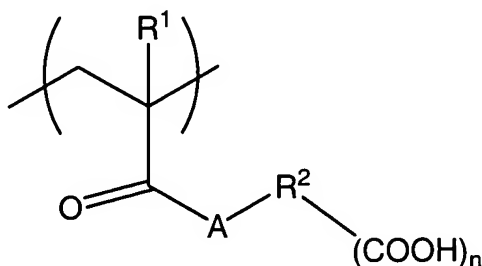
13. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the binder polymer has a radical-polymerizable group.

14. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the binder polymer has an alkali-soluble group.

15. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the binder polymer has a weight-average molecular weight of 2,000 to 1,000,000.

16. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the binder polymer has a glass transition point (T_g) of 70 to 300°C.

17. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the binder polymer comprises a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



Formula (I)

wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R² represents a linking group composed of atoms selected from carbon atoms, hydrogen atoms, oxygen atoms, nitrogen atoms, sulfur atoms and halogen atoms, wherein a number of atoms excluding atoms in a substituent group is 2 to 30; A represents an oxygen atom or -NR³- wherein R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and n is an integer from 1 to 5.

18. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, wherein the UV absorber is one selected from the group consisting of a benzotriazole compound substituted with an aryl group, a 4-thiazolidone compound, a benzophenone compound, a cinnamate compound, a butadiene compound, a benzoxazole compound and a UV absorbing polymer.

19. (original): The planographic printing plate precursor of claim 1, further comprising an intermediate layer between the photosensitive layer and the substrate.